

January 27, 2024

St. Petersburg City Council 175 5th St N, St. Petersburg, FL 33701

Dear St. Petersburg City Council,

It is my honor to be in support of the Historic Gas Plant District development project. The project isn't solely about a ballpark, but is about building community and bringing people together, while also looking towards a better tomorrow.

As a young creative author/illustrator and entrepreneur, this is an extraordinary project to see come into fruition and will be beneficial to young emerging creative talent such as myself. I'm in full support of the plans to further foster the love of the arts, especially within the proposed zone of "Artists & Makers". Given that St. Petersburg has a vibrant community of artists, the proposed Booker Music Hall is expected to be a place for storytellers to not only share their creative stories publicly, whether it be in music or creative literature, but it's a place for their stories to be a resonating event within the city, while also becoming more.

I published my first book at a young age, and I'm immensely grateful for how far I've come. As a young individual, it can often feel like our voices go unnoticed, and I'm proud to see that the plans for the community redevelopment will include a voice for the young individuals within the community through the youth committee and that they'll have a say in what our future holds. This will provide an exclusive look into what the next generation needs rather than going off personal thoughts for what's needed. As someone who's tailored to be within the proposed committee, it provides a tremendous impact to those who may not feel like they have a voice, further emphasizing that the youth now have a big impact on building a better community tailored to their needs.

The redevelopment is not only in support from myself, but also from my wonderful parents, who have supported my endeavors. For my mother specifically, who's an educator for young children, she's ecstatic to see that there will be more childcare services coming into the area, which will not only be beneficial for children, but for individuals who are seeking employment within the field of education for young children in a well-developed area and community.

This development not only impacts the entire community, but my family and I as individuals and we could be more excited and in full support for the benefits and community that's set to come and occur.

Sincerely,

Davon Miller
Children's author/illustrator